

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

VOLUME XXVII.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1911

NUMBER 43

The Holiday Season Is Past. Let Us All "Get Busy" Again and Make 1911 a Great Year for Great Bend

WOULD HAVE R. R. BOARD APPOINTED.

A Rate Clerk Is Needed.

After serving four years as chairman of the state board of railroad commissioners, George W. Kanaval, who retires from the board next Monday, believed he is qualified to suggest to the legislature some changes needed in the laws relating to the board and to the railroads. He has made a close study of the application of the railroad laws and the relief which should come to the people under them. Mr. Kanaval yesterday prepared a list of suggestions to the legislature in which he says:

"On account of other duties of the secretary of the board he should not be required to handle the rate department, and the legislature should make a sufficient appropriation to enable the employment of a qualified man for the performance of this duty. The legislature should also make appropriation for the regular employment of an engineer. My experience has been that the services of a competent engineer are very valuable to the board in the matter of track, bridge and crossing inspection.

"The railroad commissioner law should be amended providing for the appointment of the members of the board by the governor, and the appointment by the board of its own attorney. The constitutionality of the present railroad commissioner law has been declared by the courts, and the legislature should guard zealously this advantage to the Kansas shippers, and any public utility legislation should be amendatory to the present law, rather than a repeal thereof. The board should be given jurisdiction to regulate the service and tolls of telegraph companies and such telephone companies as operate in more than one county and of all electric lines doing an interstate business not within the jurisdiction of city authorities.

"The law should be further amended so that appeals from an order of the board can only be taken to the supreme court of the state of Kansas, except in such cases as involve a federal question, when appeals may be taken to the federal courts. Under the present practice appeals from the orders of the board may be taken to the district court and the board has but little more legal dignity than that of a justice of the peace.

"At the present time there are many cities in Kansas not located on the line of any railroad. The free time for the delivery of shipments to consignees located in such towns should be extended to an additional twenty-four hours. Under the present law the storage charges begin to run as to such consignees within the same length of time as though consignees lived in a town to which the railroads make delivery of freight.

"In my opinion the idea advanced by Senator Curtis in regard to the creation of a court of claims is a good one and should be considered by the legislature. Under the law the board of railroad commissioners cannot be vested with both legislative and judicial functions and the adjudicating of claims requires the exercise of judicial powers not possible to be conferred directly upon the board. I would have it possible for the legislature to create a court of claims whose duty it would be to adjudicate all claims arising on shipments of freight, express or baggage. The personnel of said court to be constituted of the members of the board of railroad commissioners acting ex-officio, and with no relation to their official duties as members of said railroad commission; and the rate clerk of said board should be constituted the secretary of the court of claims.

"In my opinion, if physical valuation is to be attempted by the Kansas railroad companies, the legislature should make sufficient provision for this doing of the work in a most thorough manner, as any other procedure would render the result of doubtful value so far as their showing in the courts is concerned. The experience of other states has been, and the decision of the supreme court of the United States points out, that the present physical valuation of the railroad properties is but one of the elements to be considered in the fixing of rates, and that coordinate with and of equal importance is the original cost of construction and the value of the property as a going concern, taking into consideration its stocks, bonds, the commercial advantages of its location and the good will of its patrons, the building up of which costs the companies considerable money. In this connection will say, that in my opinion, one of the principal advantages to be derived from physical valuation is that of comparison with valuation in other states where lower rates may be in force, and to make such valuation of railroads in this regard, uniformity of procedure is necessary. The valuation of railroads which have up to date been made by the various states have not been conducted along uniform lines and their issues for competitive purposes are thereby rendered to a considerable extent valueless.

"If it were possible to do so, I would think it advisable to secure from the interstate commerce commission a mode of procedure for physical valuation of Kansas properties in order that the Kansas valuation might at least be computed along the same lines as that established by the federal government in the valuing of railroad properties as a whole."

Cheney.

The funeral of Mrs. Josephine Cheney was held Tuesday afternoon from the residence of W. P. Coles where she had made her home. Mrs. Cheney was a sister of Mr. Coles and for years had taken charge of his house for him. Several months ago she was stricken with paralysis and it was from the effects of this that her death occurred Saturday.

The deceased was a good woman, a true friend and while the most of her time was spent quietly at home she enjoyed a large circle of friends. She leaves to mourn her death these friends besides a number of relatives in this vicinity and in Kansas City and western points.

THE ELKS RECEPTION.

Celebrated New Year With Big Reception and Dance.

About the only public social recognition of the New Year was the reception given by the Elks at the Home Monday afternoon and evening. The Home was beautifully decorated with flowers and the committees spared no expense in making it a veritable bower of flowers. In the dining room, punch and wafers were served the guests, while the upstairs was arranged for those who wished to rest and visit or play cards or other games. As the guests arrived they were met at the door by members of the club and escorted to the cloak rooms and the ladies presented with large carnations as favors.

During the afternoon between orchestral selections, Miss Clara Clayton played some piano solos and Mr. Chas. Townsley and Mr. Will Townsley gave vocal solos. The Holiday orchestra, of Hutchinson, furnished the music for both afternoon and evening.

In the evening a big dance was given. There was a large crowd present both afternoon and evening, though not as large as was expected.

It is gratifying to note that the Elks have in a way supplied the omission of the last two or three years in regard to this New Year's reception and it is to be hoped that they will make this an annual feature. The affair as planned this year was a complete success and credit is due Messrs. Brinkman, Massie, Lewis, Hill, Chapman, who arranged it, and who were ably assisted by Dr. Meade, Reg. Russell, Will Smyth and Lester Cox as well as other members of the lodge not on the committee.

The only thing needed to make it as much of a success or even larger than the reception of past years given by the former managements, is that the invitations should be extended to all eligible to attend.

Monday's reception was a complete success, however, and the lodge is to be congratulated on taking up the plan.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Shinnick entertained very pleasantly last Saturday evening at a Progressive Whist and Watch party. The new year was properly welcomed in after a very pleasant social time which was enjoyed by the following guests: Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Button, Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Lyds, Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. G. Rudolph, Mr. R. W. Arndt. A delicious three-course luncheon formed an enjoyable part of the evening's amusement.

T. M. Beardsley, of this city, was married to Miss Effie Surber, of Paola, Kansas, at the residence of Probate Judge Jordan in Hutchinson, last Sunday evening, and are now in Nickerson receiving the well-wishes and congratulations of their many friends. The wedding was left a secret from their friends and comes as a very pleasant surprise to all. Mr. Beardsley has been day operator at the Santa Fe for several years and is numbered among their most trusted employees. Miss Surber is well known to many of our people, having visited here a number of times, and is a woman well worthy the man of her choice. The newly wedded couple were given a hearty reception at their home last Monday by a goodly number of friends and neighbors who called on them as a pleasant surprise. They will be at home to their friends after January 15. The Argoys join with their many friends in wishing them a long and happy married life.—Nickerson Argosy.

Lindly Traxall left Monday for Winfield after spending the holidays with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Garry, of Wichita, spent the holidays with Mrs. Garry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Shaffer, of West Broadway.

Mrs. D. D. Page is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Dillon Wilson, in Wichita.

Misses Elsie and Anna Wood entertained a number of young ladies Friday afternoon, at the Woods home on Walnut Creek, in honor of Miss Anna Sutherland of Ames, Iowa, and Miss Ruth Schnacko, of Topeka. A most delightful afternoon was spent by the young ladies.

Wm. Bolinger, who has been visiting his son, W. A. Bolinger, and family, returned to his home at Minneapolis Saturday.

E. P. Downing, of Wichita, visited a few days last week with his son, Bob Downing, and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Lorimer have returned to Hutchinson after spending a few days with their daughter, Mrs. Geo. Wheatland.

Misses Jessie Winstead and Beulah DeMott left Sunday for Medford, Oklahoma, where they will attend the wedding of an aunt.

Mrs. Elmer Brodie, of Wichita, visited relatives and friends here a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. McGrory, who have been visiting their daughter, Mrs. R. C. Russell, returned Friday to their home in Lawrence.

Mrs. E. M. Traylor and children have returned to their home in Mullensville after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wall Dodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Russell entertained a few friends at dinner last Thursday evening.

Leland Ingersoll, of Dodge City, spent New Years here with relatives.

Will Wissman, of Albert, purchased a new Buick auto at Ed Panning Saturday.

Miss Flora Allison, of Hutchinson, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Brin, who have been here visiting Mr. and Mrs. Henry Born, left Monday for their home at Bartlesville, Okla.

Miss Anna Sieverling, of Bordette, visited the first of the week with her brother, Fred Sieverling.

Otto Putnam and wife visited friends in Kinsley and Garden City the first of the week.

Mrs. Henry Luft and daughter, Beatrice, have returned from a visit with relatives in Ness City.

J. S. Reiser is here visiting his son, J. E. Reiser, who is at the hospital.

DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS.

The final session of the Sixty-first Congress will convene in a few days, but from the information at hand, it will find neither party entirely prepared for it. So crushing was the defeat of the Republican majority that neither Mr. Cannon in the House, nor Mr. Aldrich in the Senate has since been able to summon sufficient interest to rally their congressional forces. It is doubtful if the House Republicans will perform other than the perfunctory and routine duties compulsory at each session, for, when they adjourn in March, they turn over to the present Democratic minority the entire machinery of the House, and for the first time in sixteen years they become the minority in the House of Representatives.

Doubtless disastrous has been this defeat to the Republican party, for the dominant faction has been driven from the States to its stronghold in the White House, and whatever of Republicanism remains intact on the field is of the insurgent breed, and of no great stability. President Taft is a reactionary. Though his leaders have been wiped out, he must carry on the fight. Insurgency will die in a few months the whole battle will be on again from the White House and against the reactionary forces that will rally around Mr. Taft the Democratic fight of 1912 must be waged.

While Democratic success, all along the line was not more than the Democracy deserved, the victory is so widespread, complete and momentous as to require a most comprehensive plan of procedure. In the formulation of that plan the best minds of Democracy everywhere have instantly devoted themselves. The question is, how much time will it require to perfect that policy?

Every Democrat who places his country and his party above his personal ambition will seek by consultation and cooperation to aid in the formation of a policy which shall be reasonably satisfactory to every section of the country; a policy which shall promise the greatest good to the greatest number. To reach that end, members will need subordinate their individual ambitions to the views of a majority.

We have heard discussed many plans of action. Some have suggested that a general tariff bill be considered; the Democratic caucus thus being pledged to repeal the Payne-Aldrich tariff and, affirmatively, to the adoption of an entirely new tariff bill. Others, equally earnest in their endeavor to move the evils of the Payne-Aldrich law, propose the introduction of a bill or bills to be acted upon by a party line, thus eliminating the dangers of logrolling by localities or individual interests. Another plan that is not without merit is the proposal for a horizontal reduction in the tariff rates, until the schedules are gradually brought to a revenue plane. And there may be some, no doubt, who feel that it is unwise to introduce a tariff bill at all. Also there may be a difference of opinion as to whether any step should be taken at the final session of the present Congress. It will require careful, painstaking work among the Democratic members to decide upon the proper plan of procedure, but no Democrat should fail to read aright the lesson in the returns from the last election. There were no personal triumphs. The wave that swept the country and put a Democratic majority into the House of Representatives started on the day the extraordinary session of the Sixty-first Congress closed. No one can mistake its meaning.

The people voted for redress from admitted wrongs and to the correction of those wrongs the Democracy should at once apply itself.

In determining a method of procedure, Democratic leaders must first interpret the meaning of the election returns. A great deal has been said about the effect of Mr. Roosevelt's presence in the campaign. No doubt he was a factor. How much of injury, or how much of benefit he was to the Democratic party is an open question. Men will disagree as to whether Roosevelt made votes or lost votes to the Republican candidates. His "New Nationalism" did not receive to be sure, a very enthusiastic reception. The graft issue prevalent in several states, likewise, might be looked upon as a factor; but above Mr. Roosevelt and apart from the corruption among Republican officeholders there was a powerful sentiment of opposition to Republicanism sweeping the country.

That opposition first found expression in the rebellion against the Cannon whip in the House of Representatives. It then spread into party insurgency, a natural sequence of events, showing a determination on the part of some of the able and wise heads in the Republican party to free themselves from a body over which there was an apparent impending doom.

From a mild insurgency it spread to a genuine stampede, and the cause rested in the failure of the Republican party to live up to its promise of a tariff revision downward, and the deliberate enactment of a tariff bill in the interest of the already over-protected trusts.

Apart from the Democratic press and leaders, such noted Republicans as the late lamented Delivered, Iowa's brilliant son; Cummins; LaFollette, Bourne and Beveridge stated clearly from every campaign stump that the Republican tariff failure was the real issue of the campaign. It is not necessary here or now to cite more to prove that the real cause of Republican defeat was the awakening of the people to the fact that the Republican party had revised the tariff in the interest of the few, at the expense of the many, instead of the other way around.

Accepting the tariff as the paramount cause of Republican defeat, we must conclude that the mandate of this election is a demand for immediate action looking to the undoing of the wrong and injury done by the Payne-Aldrich bill.

Certain parts of that bill may and should be changed at this session. Public sentiment has condemned it and the people, by their votes, have repudiated it.

Also the Democratic minority may make clear at this session its purpose to revise the tariff as rapidly as it can be fairly and conveniently done. It must determine at this session the details of the measure by which it will reduce the tariff schedules to their legal function of revenue producers. And above all it must immediately move to take the tariff off of food supplies; to establish reciprocity with Canada, and thus meet the overtures of that country for a mutually beneficial trade relationship.

A tendency now prevalent looking to the reduction on food prices indicates we believe, that the country's manufacturers appreciate that the day of corruption and in return for special privileges has past.

The enactment of a number of public laws has facilitated the movement among the great industries to retire from the field of campaign contributors. The Democratic party is going to aid that movement.

We believe that the merchants and manufacturers desire to get out of it; but they must aid the Democratic party to the extent of cooperating with it in the return of the country to a sane tariff schedule.

The late Mark Hanna did not inaugurate the policy of giving governmental favors to corporations in return for large contributions to the Republican campaign fund; but he made of that policy a national institution. This last election marked its downfall. What the Republican party lost the people will gain, for the manufacturers, who have paid out their thousands to the dominant party, will find themselves benefited more by paying out that sum to the general public in the reduction of prices.

Bank Guaranty Law Good.

The bank guaranty laws of Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas have been declared constitutional by the supreme court of the United States, and thus the fight over the policy of guaranteeing, through the state, of deposits in banks was won by the advocates of such a policy.

The opinions of the court were announced by Justice Holmes. He said the main objection to the laws was that the assessment of banks by the state in order to create a fund to guarantee the deposits in other banks within the state took private property of one bank for the private use of another without compensation.

Justice Holmes admitted that there might be a taking of private property without return to pay debts of a failing rival in business, but he said there were more powerful considerations on the other side of the question.

"In the first place," he said, "it is established by cases that an ulterior public advantage may justify a comparatively insignificant taking of private property for what, in its immediate purpose, is a private use."

"It would seem that there may be other cases besides the every day one of taxation, in which the share of each party in the benefit of a scheme of mutual protection is sufficient compensation for the correlative burden that it is compelled to assume. At least if we have a case within the reasonable exercise of the police power as above explained, no more need be said."

The Justice then proceeded to justify the laws under the police powers. The police powers, he said, may be put forth in aid of "what is sanctioned by usage, or held by the prevailing morality or strong and preponderant opinion to be greatly and immediately necessary to the public welfare." The laws came within this limit, he said.

The Oklahoma law is a compulsory one.

City Council Met.

City council met in an adjourned session Tuesday night with Mayor Dawson in the chair and Councilmen E. W. Morris, Hayes, Crow and Merritt present. Minutes of last regular and intervening meetings read and approved.

Monthly and quarterly reports of city clerk and quarter report of city treasurer read and ordered filed. The regular routine business was transacted and monthly bills allowed.

On motion Pearl Holmes was granted pool and billiard hall license for the coming month subject to the provisions of pool hall ordinance.

On motion the city attorney was instructed to draw a new Sunday closing ordinance.

It Was Cold Enough.

Official thermometers showed a wide range Monday night, but it was easy at that to determine that it was the coldest seen in years in this part of the state. At the Stokes greenhouses where a watch is kept all night the thermometer showed 21 degrees below zero between 2 and 5 o'clock. Until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning it was 10 below, but because of the absence of wind it did not seem so cold.

Miss Susie Proper, of Grand Junction, Colo., is here the guest of her aunt, Mrs. E. C. Briggs.

Mr. Bert Barnett and daughter, who have been here visiting her brother, E. W. Seward, returned home to Dodge City Saturday.

Mrs. Elton Lowe returned home Monday, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Cole. Her home is in Coffeyville, Kansas.

Mrs. E. C. Emley is visiting in McPherson and Lawrence this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Engle, of Abilene, are here visiting their daughter, Mrs. E. E. Wagaman.

Mr. Hilyer and wife have returned from a week's visit with relatives in Kansas City.

Mrs. Green Stevens has returned from Wichita, where she has been visiting relatives.

B. H. Quinn, the architect, was in Jetmore the first of the week, making plans for a new school building.

Jacob Miller is home from St. Joe, Mo., after spending the holidays with his son, Leon and family.

Mrs. Mary Moses, of New York, who visited her nephews, C. L. E. W. and Linn Moses, here, a few weeks ago, and went from here to Pueblo, stopped here Friday on her way home, and will visit for some time with the Moses families.

Mrs. H. H. Nicholson is visiting her father, H. D. Blanchard, at Grapewick, who is quite sick.

Albert Parsons, who has been here visiting his daughter, Beulah, returned to his home in La Junta, Colo., Sunday.

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Mrs. F. Goodman and daughter, Pauline, of Denver, are here visiting Mr. and Mrs. Henry Born.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Porter left Wednesday for Wichita where they will make their future home.

A. E. Strong, of the telephone company, is visiting in Kansas City this week.

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No Complaint to Make.

"I shall never forget my first impressions of Kansas, no matter how long I live." This remark was made by P. H. Brack, of Otis, Kansas. "A little more than 34 years ago, I came to this country with my parents from Russia, and Rush county was our first stopping place in America. Besides my parents there were seven children, I being the oldest of the four sons. My parents were poor, and the country was new and wild looking to us. My father staked off a homestead, and the first day we were on it he left me alone and went away and while he was gone four big Indians came along and looked me over. Of course I made up my mind they were going to take me off or kill me. But we grew up with the country. This family of seven children made a very good showing in the way of increasing the population, and as we were all married and at the head of families of good size, and all living right there where we landed. Three brothers of my father also located in the same neighborhood, and each of them raised four sons and each of those twelve sons married and also raised a family; in addition to several girls who grew up, married and raised families, so that today there are in that community probably 150 descendants of those four families of Bracks. And every family out of the entire lot has prospered and we are all doing well. I own a farm of over 700 acres out there, besides a half interest in a 1,200-acre farm in Colorado. The land out in that state in which I am interested, promises to beat my Kansas holdings for real profits. Most of the 1,200 acres is under irrigation, and only recently we were offered \$50,000 for the property. I spent a year out there, and outside of that time, I have lived every day in Kansas, right where my parents landed when we arrived from Russia. All of us have succeeded and we have no complaint to make about Kansas."—Kansas City Star.

Roger Winget.

Roger Winget, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Winget, of Albert, died at Arkansas City, Kansas, Monday, January 2, where he had gone for the benefit of his health. He was born at Albert, October 25, 1889, and died January 2, 1911, aged 21 years, 2 months and 8 days.

He was a fine young man and the news was a sad shock to his relatives and friends although he had been a sufferer from Bright's disease for some time, yet death was hardly expected.

The body was shipped to Albert and will be buried in the German M. E. cemetery there.

His leaves to mourn his loss, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Winget, two brothers, John and James, and three sisters, Mrs. M. L. Worden, and Myra and May Winget.

We extend our sympathy to the family in their hour of sadness.

Clarence Colegrove, who has been quite sick at Bunker Hill, with pneumonia, returned home Tuesday. His sister, Mrs. Mildred Whitton, who went there to help care for him, returned with him.

Minnie and Frank Sturgeon left for Grann, Colorado, Monday. They are children of T. J. Sturgeon who was declared insane a few days ago. They go to Colorado to join their mother. Sturgeon will be taken to the asylum in a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Maybach and two children stopped here last evening on their way from Los Angeles, Calif., and are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Hartman of this city. Mrs. Hartman is a sister of Mr. Maybach. They will visit W. H. Maybach and family of South Liberty, brother of Sam, before leaving for the east.

Carl Eaton, for a long time with the Great Bend Telephone Company, left Saturday for Denver, Colo., where he will be employed.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Epperson and family and Misses Lizzy, Ella and Jennie McMullen were the guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gwinn at dinner, Monday. The Gwinn are royal entertainers and always make people feel at home.

Otto Sieverling, of Kansas City, is visiting his brother, Fred Sieverling.

Miss Ethel McGreevey returned Tuesday to Kansas City, where she will resume school work.

Burris Sproule, of Kansas City, spent New Years with his sister, Miss Mollie Sproule.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crocker are now occupying the Dodge property on North Main street, where they will make their home for the present.

W. W. Price, of Kirksville, Mo., is here for an extended visit with his brother, E. Price, and family.

Mrs. J. C. Berger returned to her home at Clay Center, Tuesday, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Torrey.

Miss Nellie Johnson, who has been visiting her parents at Nekoma, returned Tuesday to resume her work with the Moran Bros.